

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

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23 AUG 1960

SUBJECT: Procurement of High-Priority, Hard-to-Get Sino-Soviet Bloc Periodicals and Other Publications

PROBLEM: To consider ways and means of obtaining the subject publications, in the light of successful and unsuccessful efforts in the past.

DISCUSSION: Since World War II, and especially since the Soviet Union tightened its security in 1947-48 (similar developments have ~~been~~ occurred in the other Bloc nations at various periods since 1948), important military and technical publications have become unobtainable or have only been obtained with considerable difficulty. In order to procure as many of these publications as possible, various measures have been taken by ACSI to insure that all potential sources are tapped. The following is not a complete list of activities, but it does indicate the potential sources and the results obtained from each:

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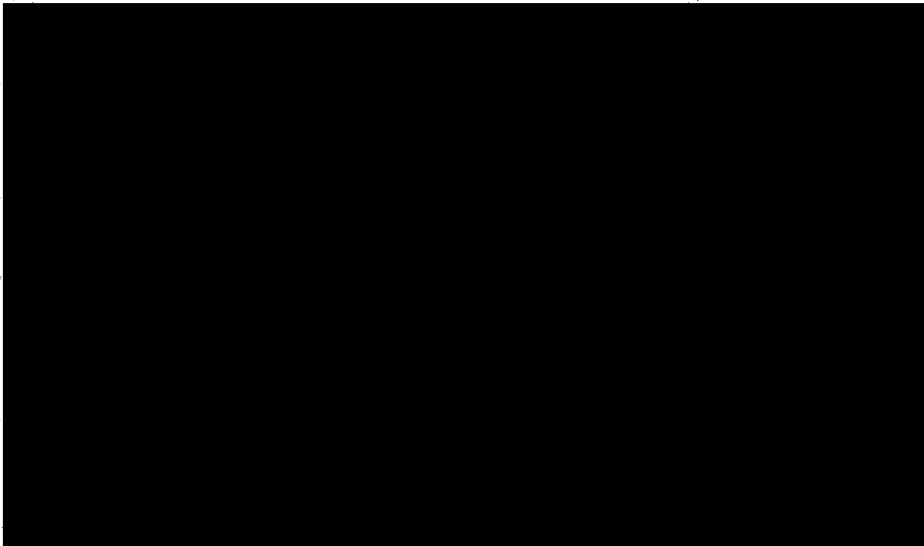
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d. Specific Requests - For years, specific requests for high-priority items have been forwarded to field collectors. These requests have generally identified the required item and in many instances have provided specific data concerning the format of the item, possible

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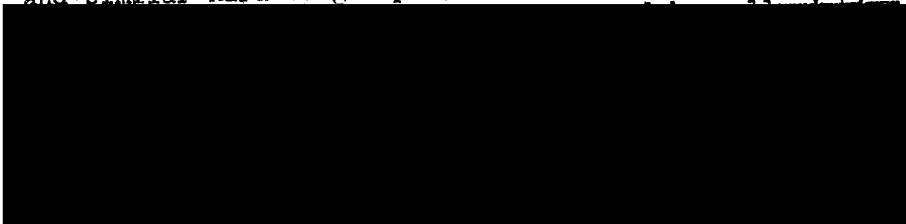
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noteworthy that those items which received a sufficiently high priority were usually obtained, even though it often required months or years for results. It has been our experience that success most often followed a concentrated effort with frequent follow ups. Also, it was essential to be highly selective and to avoid broad or numerous requirements. Realistic priorities were another important prerequisite to success. In this latter connection, ACSI has submitted several requirements to the IPC during the past two years, although results have been disappointing to date.

e. Broad General Requirements - In general, collection guides or general requirements for military and similar hard-to-get publications have been used to

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CONCLUSION: Procurement of hard-to-get publications has lost much of its former effectiveness during recent years, owing to manpower limitations, lack of emphasis, and the drying up of some sources which were effective in the past. It is therefore of considerable importance that ways and means of improving the situation be considered by the Procurement Committee and appropriate recommendations ~~be made~~ ~~be made~~ be made and actions taken. The Committee's efforts in this field to date have been highly ineffectual, and it would appear that a new approach is necessary. It is also believed that this subject warrants greater attention in future meetings. Logically, it is important to have each agency submit information on its successful and unsuccessful programs and activities (the Committee Secretary might well examine the record of the Committee

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and its predecessor, the Procurement Subcommittee and provide comparable information). Based on this information, it is reasonable to assume that some valuable recommendations could then be made by the Committee to the USIB or to some of the sister Committees.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee discuss this problem and decide ~~in~~ the best manner in which to arrive at a solution to the problem. Also, that a frame of reference or agenda be approved by the members at this or a subsequent meeting.

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